

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /159 W

-----028931 240817Z /12

R 240600Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8382

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 3648

LONDON FOR IMCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, ID, SN, MY

SUBJ: MALACCA STRAITS TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME

1. STRAITS TIMES REPORTED AUGUST 22 THAT INDONESIA, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA HAVE AGREED TO PRESENT THEIR SCHEME FOR TRAFFIC SEPARATION IN THE MALACCA STRAITS TO IMCO FOR ACCEPTANCE DURING IMCO'S SEPTEMBER 5-9 MEETINGS IN LONDON. MALAYSIAN MFA OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THREE COUNTRIES HAD ALSO AGREED TO ESTABLISH REVOLVING FUND TO FIGHT POLLUTION AND THAT THEY HOPED JAPANESE SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION AND OTHER USERS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO IT. MAJOR PROVISION OF SCHEME IS REPORTEDLY A MINIMUM UNDERKEEP CLEARANCE OF 3.5 METERS FOR VESSELS PASSING THROUGH MALACCA AND SINGAPORE STRAITS.

2. MFA OFFICIAL PETER CHAN INFORMS US THAT JAPANESE HAVE
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ASKED FOR FIVE YEAR TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BEFORE NEW REGULATIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED SO THAT VERY LARGE CRUDE CARRIERS CAN BE PHASED OUT OF STRAITS TRAFFIC. PROBLEM WITH SUCH CARRIERS IS INSUFFICIENT UNDERKEEP CLEARANCE. THE THREE STRAITS COUNTRIES WILL, ACCORDING TO CHAN, GIVE "FAVORABLE CONSIDERATIONS" TO JAPANESE REQUEST AFTER SEPARATION SCHEME HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY IMCO.

3. CHAN SAID JAPANESE SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION HAS OFFERED
\$1.3 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO REVOLVING FUND, WHICH TO BE
USED ONLY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION IN CLEANING UP SPILLS.
FUNDS WOULD BE RECOVERED FROM OFFENDING SHIPOWNERS AND
RETURNED TO FUND. CHAN SAID THAT NO OTHER COUNTRIES YET
APPROACHED TO CONTRIBUTE, BUT THAT THEY PROBABLY WILL
BE ONCE THE SCHEME IS ADOPTED.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, STRAITS, SHIP MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP03648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770305-0575
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770828/aaaaaxje.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08291054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1499350
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALACCA STRAITS TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME
TAGS: PLOS, ID, SN, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08291054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009